

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28738 020732Z

12/60

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /045 W
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O O 020045Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4732

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PARIS 28738

CORRECTED COPY FORM R N O N L Y, VICE 28737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CONSULAR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN BY USSR
OFFICIALS . - JOSEPH JAMES PLESSER.

1. 1 AM 2 DEC 1974, MAN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS JOSEPH
JAMES PLESSER, BORN OCT 9, 1917, PASAIC N.J. TELEPHONED
EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER. OCCUPATION GIVEN PRES. HAMOS, CO.
855 AVE OF THE AMERICA'S NEW YORK CITY. PLESSER CLAIMED,
DETENTION AND INTERROGATION BY SOVIET OFFICIALS, WHEN ATT-
EMPTING TO DEPART MOSCOW AIRPORT ON PAN AM FLT. 93 1 DEC 1974

2. REASON FOR SOVIET ACTION WAS PLESSER'S VISIT TO SOVIET
JEWS IN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW, FROM WHOM HE RECEIVED
MANUSCRIPT AND PETITION RELATED TO SOVIET JEWRY. PLESSER
ACTION DUE TO TELEPHONIC REQUEST BY MRS. SCHONLL, NOT
FURTHER IDENTIFIED. CALL WAS IN N.Y. CITY BEFORE TRIP.

3. PLESSER ALLEGED MOSCOW DETENTION LASTED 9 HRS, DURING
WHICH HE SIGNED STATEMENTS DENYING ANY MISTREATMENT. HIS
24 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, MEYRL PLESSER WAS ALSO DETAINED.
THEY BOTH ARRIVED PARIS 2 DEC. 1974. INTEND TO DEPART FOR
JFK. ON PAN AM 101 MID DAY DEC 2 1974. SOVIET OFFICIALS
DENIED REQUESTS BY PLESSER TO CONTACT AMEMBASSY IN MOSCOW,
DURING HIS DETENTION.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 28738 020732Z

4. PLESSER WAS MEMBER OF N.Y. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION TO IMPROVE TRADE WITH USSR. GROUP WAS IN USSR 24NOV 1974 TO 1DEC. 1974. PLESSER ADVISED HE HAD INFORMED N.Y. TIMES PARIS OFFICE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
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